

Commerce And Industry. Samuel G Smith Hillsboro. W. Va. Pocahontas Co.  
West Virginia Pulp And Paper Co. Cass. W. Va.

The W. Va. Pulp And Paper Co. began operation in 1900 and have been operating practically steady since that time, the mill site was bought from Newton J Gum and at that time was being farmed by him.

The W. Va. Pulp And Paper Co. was made up by and with the following men John G Luke of Orange, N. Y and his sons William, now at Covington. Va. Al Luke, Charlie Luke and S. F Slaymaker and William Whitmer of Pa. Slaymaker had the selling of all lumber.

The general manager of this co. was E. P Shafer for a long period and the present mgr. is S. D Huff, R. S Hickman was general mgr. of the Co. store and Burke McCarty was assistant store mgr. The name of the store is The Pocahontas Supply which did an enormous business at one time as they had as high as 20 clerks besides the other stores at Spruce and Slaty Fork besides small stores at some of the coal mines.

This is a double band mill that cut about 75 to 80,000 a day when they were operating the best of their timber, they had 14 log engines and 3 of these were the largest Shay engines built at that time, they had 10 to 12 loaders besides the <sup>3</sup> steam skidders that they used on Elk and other sections ~~XXXXXX~~ but at one time they had 27 camps and had about 10 teams to the camp therefore they had over 200 teams of horses or 400 head. They had a steam shovel and a ditcher.

Their R R was known as The Greenbrier Cheat And Elk River R R



or the G.C & E. with Robert Hivic as R R Supt. The railroad started at Cass  
went up Leatherwood to Spruce and there it forked went down Cheat River near  
Cheat Junction, the other fork leads to Bergoo, Slatyfork and vec, with a line  
up Flk River and in on Tea Creek by way of Red Lick Mt.

The mill foremans were William Anderson and Charlie Furman, the  
druggist was Harry Hill and at present store Mgr, E.C Smith was store Mgr. at  
Slatyfork, Jay Buckley was clerk at Slatyfork and run commisarys for the Co. at  
different places, William Buckley worked in the store at Cheat. The woods supts,  
were Sol McNeely, Heaston Payne ~~and~~ Judson Taylor and John (Jack) Crookshanks,  
lumber graders J.R Guthrie and Mark Wood Gum, the postmasters have been Dr. Joe  
Ayers, Lake Clark and James Moyers the present P.M, Merl Irvine conductor and  
train master, George Graham was in charge of the office R.W Fox bookkeeper and  
Leona Sheppard office worker, John Hannah G.C. & E .R.R. Elmer Duncan shop cl-  
erk train master and office man, Joe Graves yard foreman, S.B Nethkin run the  
Company firm and operated the meat market for several years but the present  
farm manager is George Waugh, George Anderson was shovel man for the R R and  
another George Anderson was assistant mill foreman, Yard foreman Hob Rose.

The first Company doctor was Dr. Julian Arbuckle he was one of Gre-  
enbrier County, leading doctors after he left Cass, the present Dr. is Dr. U.H  
Hannah and their veterinary was Dr. F.C Nickel.



The following were engineers on the G.C & E R.R some time or other

George Williams, Cal Bradley, George Cromer, Ben Cameron, Sam Waugh, Frank Williams, Floyd Dorman, H.C Gilmore, Thurman Fitzwater, Pat Bradley, Charlie & Grover Craddock-Red Stanley, C.W Odell was train dispatcher .Frank Imes was conductor on Cheat. James Collison was time keeper for the woods and took orders for the

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camps. The sawyers were the following men Tim Kenealey, Jean Kepner, Homer Brown, Ray Ott, Blackie Calhoun, Robert Blackburn, Warren Shifflet, Joe Hannah was one of the first sawyers, and the present sawyers are Harry Miller and Oscar Sarson. Joe Wooddell is town police. Herbert Shafer master mechanic and shop foreman, their electric welder man is Chalmers Shrader.

The W.Va. Pulp And Paper Co. have operated over something like 110,000 acres <sup>in Pocahontas Co</sup> besides some in other counties and this acreage covered the most of the upper end of Pocahontas County, and took in the following territory, Cass, Back Mt, Cheat Mt, Down Cheat River, Bergoo Creek, Slatyfork, Gauley Mt, Elk River and to the Randolph County line and when they were operating from 1915 to 30 they employed between 2500 and 3,000 men that received from \$ 2.50 to \$ 4.60 a day (the high prices were during the war.)

Besides the band mill at Cass they had a pulp mill at Spruce and they put out solid train loads of pulp that was shipped to Covington Va. to their paper mill or to Luke Md to a paper mill there and on March 10. 1940 they had a big <sup>fire</sup> ~~fire~~ at the Covington plant that destroyed several thousand dollars



worth of property and material, losing 10 million pounds of finished kraft and scrap besides the paper and two men lost their lives J.E Steeley plant Supt.and Walter F Linger mill chemist and dept.head were overcome with smoke and died of a heart attack.

During the war they had an Extract plant in the lower end of Cass at what is called the Y, and here they made khaki dye the supt.was A.Molton.

The population of Cass at the present time is 800 but back a few years ago it had a population of 22,00 and at that time was the largest town in Pocahontas County, Cass has about 400 ~~XX~~ Company houses a school for the white population also a school for the colored, 3 churches and a large hotel that would accommodate from 50 to 75 people that was under the management of Mrs.Jack Crookshanks and a Mrs.Heaster at different times they employed 4 or 5 girls and 2 cooks, besides this establishment they had private hotels and restaurants on the east side across the river, and it was on east side where the lumber hicks mostly put up and it was here that several murders were committed and was known as dirty street over here you found 2 or 3 stores a restaurant, a hotel and several privately owned houses.

The Co.had camps from Spruce to Bemis on the Western Maryland R R, most of the G.O & I R R was built by Italians and Austrians and these were known as the bohunk camps.